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RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTS HOUSING MANAGER AWARD

GRAFTON, May 18, 2010 — USDA Rural Development State Director Jasper Schneider today is presenting Rural Development's 2010 North Dakota Multi-Family Housing Site Manager of the Year award to Tami Egeland of Grafton.



Tami Egeland, Grafton, shares a moment with Jasper Schneider, Rural Development State Director, after receiving Rural Development's 2010 North Dakota Multi-Family Housing Site Manager of the Year Award.

"Managers like Tami play a vital role in maintaining the quality of life for those who reside in the apartments," said Schneider. "Tami is especially deserving of Rural Development's 2010 Site Manager of the Year award because of her dedication and extraordinary efforts ensuring the needs of the residents."

Egeland is the site manager for Villa De Remer, Grafton Living Center and Hancock Place Apartments and has been with MetroPlains Management for more than nine years.

Nominations for Manager of the Year are made by project owners and supported by the residents. Selection criteria is based on 1) tenant satisfaction with their manager; 2) curb appeal of the apartment complex; 3) accurate and complete record keeping; and 4) actions of the manager that consistently go above and beyond what is required of the job.

"Tami is very customer service oriented as she promotes a sense of community for all her residents," said Gary Stenson, President of MetroPlains Properties,

Inc. "We can build apartments, but it is key to have managers, like Tami who build relationships with residents so they feel comfortable and at home. She is very deserving of this award."

USDA Rural Development helped finance the Villa De Remer and Graton Living Center, both senior properties, which are adaptive reuse of buildings listed on the National Register of Historical Places. The properties provide a fitness center, meal service and plenty of opportunities to socialize.

"It is a privilege to arrive at work and have contact with my tenants," said Egeland. "These people appreciate the comfortable and accommodating apartment homes MetroPlains



Jasper Schneider speaks during the Manager of the Year Award presentation at the Villa De Remer in Grafton.

has provided them, which is so important. Being onsite allows me to maintain good relationships with them, and assist them with any questions or needs they may have. Every day I seem to be rewarded, either by a simple ‘thank you’ or with homemade goodies!”

Currently, Rural Development is providing financing for more than 200 multi-family housing projects in local communities across North Dakota. The availability of apartments plays an important role in the sustainability of rural communities by allowing residents to continue to live in their home community, many times close to family and friends.

For more information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA Rural Development’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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